

Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT)

FEBRUARY 2008 BRUSH FIRES

SITUATION REPORT # 2

0800 Hours February 11, 2008

The next Situation Report will be 11 February 2008 at 1700 hours.

SUMMARY

Multiple wildfires are burning in many jurisdictions across the Commonwealth. High winds are fueling the fires and making fires difficult to contain. Requests for assistance from localities **have come in rapidly. Power outages extend across the Commonwealth.**

EXECUTIVE ACTION

EOC Activation: The Virginia VEOC is at Response Operations with limited staffing. The VEOC remains on backup power.

State of Emergency: Governor Tim Kaine declared a State of Emergency on February 10, 2008 at 1740 Hours.

Federal Declaration: No declaration has been requested at this time.

Protective Actions: Local Emergency Declared on February 10, 2008 by:
Bedford County
Roanoke County
Caroline County
Orange County
Dinwiddie County
Lunenburg County
Nelson County
King George County
Henrico County
Hanover County

Schools: Localized area schools are closed Monday, February 11, 2008.

COMMAND STAFF

ESF 15 – External Affairs: Virginia Department of Emergency Management
Currently increasing readiness of the Joint Information Center. WRIC-TV 8 taped an interview at the EOC. CNN, AP Richmond, Richmond Times Dispatch, WCVE, ABC NY, CBS Charlottesville all conducted phone interviews.

WEATHER

Forecast: Monday: Wind chill advisory is in effect for Northwest corner of Virginia and Highland County until 0900 hrs. Wind chill values will fall to between -5 to -15. Increased fire danger in effect through this afternoon. Even though wind speeds will be much lower than those on Sunday...mainly averaging around 10 mph...extremely dry conditions will persist today. Relative humidity levels will be from 10 to 20 percent across the region from midday through the afternoon hours.

OPERATIONS SECTION

Local Liaison: Regional Coordinators are maintaining contact with localities with regard to resource and shelter status.

ESF 16 – Military Affairs: Virginia National Guard (VANG)

Currently increasing readiness of the Joint Operations Center. **125 National Guard personnel to arrive Ft Pickett 11 February for training by DOF in fire line defense, to be deployed 12 February as necessary.**

EMERGENCY SERVICES BRANCH

ESF 4 – Firefighting: Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF)

The VDOF Forestry Command Center is operational and is coordinating response to widespread fires in the following jurisdictions:

- Dinwiddie (evacuations and 3 homes lost)
- Brunswick (1 home lost)
- Chesapeake (1 home lost)
- Campbell (1 home lost)
- Suffolk (I-664 impacted)
- Louisa (evacuations)
- Bedford (evacuations)
- Roanoke (evacuations)
- Essex, Hanover, Chesterfield, Henrico, James City, New Kent, Caroline, Spotsylvania, Nelson, Amherst, Orange, Augusta, Pittsylvania, Lunenburg, Prince Edward, Appomattox, Halifax, Buckingham, Floyd, Patrick, Carroll, Grayson

HUMAN SERVICES BRANCH

ESF 6 – Mass Care, Housing and Human Services: Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS)

Southside Area Chapter of the American Red Cross is providing mobile feeding throughout Brunswick, Nottoway and Dinwiddie counties. Tabernacle Zion Church is open for sheltering to evacuees of Reedy Creek area. The number of evacuees is also unknown at this time. A second shelter is being opened at Dinwiddie Elementary School. Dinwiddie Emergency Management advises they are sending two school buses into fire areas in Dinwiddie County to support evacuation. Estimation of population at second shelter is 20 evacuees.

Roanoke Chapter of the American Red Cross reports a shelter opening at Roanoke Civic Center due to power outage in the area.

Bedford County Montvale School had 40 evacuees until shelter closed at 2200 hrs. Wood Haven nursing home has 30 evacuees.

Louisa County Middle School has 4 evacuees. ARC is taken off stand by in Louisa at 2239 hrs.

Lunenburg shelter at Victoria Fire and Rescue building opened at 1900 hrs for 12 citizens and pets.

Grayson County opened 2 shelters for 10 people.

Craig County opened a shelter and received cots and blankets from the Red Cross should anyone request shelter due to 50% power outage across county.

INFRASTRUCTURE BRANCH

ESF 1 – Transportation: Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

Many primary roads have been impacted due to power lines and debris in the roadway. There are also many impacts due to smoke and fire.

Interstate and Primary routes that are currently impacted:

Augusta County Route 252 to Rt. 709 – reopened
Louisa County Route 522 north of Rt. 648 – reopened
Roanoke County I-81 S at mile marker 145 – reopened
Charlotte County Route 59 at Rt. 47 to Rt. 40 – reopened
Page County Rt. 340 at Rt. 685 – reopened
Isle of Wight County Route 669 - reopened
New Kent County Route 60 at Rt. 1002 – downed power lines
Chesterfield County – Lakeview Rd at Branders Bridge Rd – downed power lines
Lunenburg County – VA 1020 between VA 49 and VA 1003 – downed power lines
Lunenburg County – VA 688 – downed power lines
Loudoun County – Purcelville Rd at Charter House Rd – road closed
Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel – Level 3 Wind Restrictions continue

ESF 12 – Energy: State Corporation Commission (SCC)

Currently there are approximately 115,000 outages statewide. The outages are spread throughout the state. The breakdown is as follows:

Dominion – approximately 30,000

Hardest impacted areas:

Northern Virginia	1400
Shenandoah Valley	10,147
Richmond Metro	10,083
Southside VA	4836
Gloucester/Northern Neck	1275
Southeastern VA	743

Appalachian – 66,814 as of 0530 hrs

Northern Virginia Electric Cooperative – 33

Northern Neck Electric Cooperative – 70

Rappahannock Electric Cooperative – 1,801

Southside Electric Cooperative – approximately 8000

The rest of the cooperatives are reporting scattered outages throughout their territories.

LOGISTICS SECTION

ESF 7 – Resource Support: Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

The VEOC is coordinating requests for assistance from the localities and state agencies. Fifteen requests for assistance have been received and are being worked.

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

Locality	EOC Activated	Request for Assistance	Declaration	Number of Fires	Other
Bedford County		Yes – fire resources Status = ongoing	Yes	12	150+ personnel, Forest Service personnel, No injuries, No buildings damaged, 40 people sheltered
Orange County	Yes – closed at 0300 hrs 11 Feb	Yes – fire resources Status = complete	Yes	Unknown	
Nelson County	Yes – closed as of 0400 hrs 11 Feb	Yes – fire resources Status = ongoing	Yes	2 50-100 acres	200 people impacted; 50 evacuated; 2 shelters opened – no evacuees
Greensville County				3 major	
Appomattox County		Yes – fire resources Status = cancelled			
Brunswick County		Yes – fuel Status = cancelled			
Louisa County	Yes	Yes – fire resources Status = ongoing			2 major fires over 100 acres; Louisa Middle School sheltering 4 evacuees
Lunenburg County		Yes – fire resources Status = complete	Yes		Shelter opened at 1900 hrs for 12 citizens and pets
Roanoke County		Yes – fire resources Status = ongoing	Yes	1 primary with several small	Endangering housing; Shelter opening at Roanoke Civic Center, Roanoke, VA due power outage in the area.
King George County	Yes	No	Yes	5	
Hanover County	Yes – closed as of 0010 hrs 11 Feb	Yes – air support Status = to be filled 11 February	Yes	25	Evacuations.
Spotsylvania County				5	
Isle of Wight County		Yes – air support Status = to be filled 11 February		1 large	Town of Smithfield roads closed due to brush fire
Caroline County	Yes	No	Yes		Several brush fires; one threatening homes
Dinwiddie County		Yes – fire resources Status = ongoing	Yes		Dinwiddie Elementary school 20 evacuees
Culpeper County					Some small brush fires
Henrico County	Yes	Yes – fire resources Status = complete	Yes	1 minor	5 people evacuated; largest fire on Brook Rd
New Kent County		Yes – fire resources Status = complete		14 fires	
Pittsylvania County	Yes				Multiple Fires have been going on all after noon. At present time all resources have not been exhausted.
Carroll County					30 acre fire in Dugspur area, 90% contained. A forestry strike team is there. Total of 60

					firefighters are on scene.
Goochland County					20 fires with over 200 acres burned
Craig County	Yes – open 1800 hrs 10 Feb due to power outage				Shelter prepared but no evacuees at this time
Grayson County					2 shelters for 10 people due to power outage
Buckingham County		Yes – fire resources Status = complete			

Prepared by: Chris Miller / Ted Costin
Authority of Michael Cline, State Coordinator
/s/ Harry Colestock, Operations Director